



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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For Immediate Release

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available

RICHMOND—Individuals unable to work due to the widespread wind and other damage from Hurricane Isabel that occurred throughout Virginia cities and counties on September 18 and thereafter may be eligible for disaster unemployment assistance.

Self-employed and unemployed workers who are not covered by regular state unemployment insurance programs may apply for this federally funded assistance made available by the disaster declaration announced by President Bush on September 18, 2003. Under this program, benefits of up to \$316.00 per week may be paid to eligible individuals until they are able to return to work.

Individuals that live or work in the following jurisdictions who are unemployed due to the effects of Hurricane Isabel may apply for assistance. These include the independent cities of Alexandria, Bedford, Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Colonial Heights, Danville, Emporia, Fairfax, Falls Church, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Harrisonburg, Hopewell, Lynchburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Richmond, Staunton, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Waynesboro, Williamsburg, Winchester; and the counties of Accomack, Albemarle, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Arlington, Augusta, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax,

(more)

Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Goochland, Gloucester, Greene, Greenville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, King William, King and Queen, Lancaster, Louisa, Loudoun, Lunenburg, Madison, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Nelson, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Rappahannock, Richmond, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Warren, Westmoreland, and York.

Disaster unemployment assistance covers persons who:

- Are unable to work because their place of unemployment was put out of operation, or they were unable to travel to their workplace because of the effects of the hurricane;
- Are self employed but are prevented from working because of the effects of the hurricane;
- Have become the breadwinner or major support of a household because the head of the household died as a result of the disaster; or
- Cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

Anyone interested in filing for disaster unemployment assistance should visit the nearest Virginia Employment Commission office. The deadline for applying is October 24, 2003. Applicants should bring their Social Security number and, if possible, documentation showing earnings for the calendar year of 2002.

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